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Message Text

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61
ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 (ISO) W
---------- 040610
R 301305Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6207
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS JIDDA 7097

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BTRA, BPRO, SA
SUBJECT: WALT DISNEY WORLD SHOWCASE

REFS: (A) STATE 230900, (B) DAMASCUS 7360, (C) JIDDA 6713

1. WALT DISNEY WORLD SHOWCASE GROUP DID ARRIVE RIYADH OCTOBER 18 AND DEPARTED SOME DAYS LATER WITHOUT, TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, HAVING ACCOMPLISHED THEIR PURPOSE -- APPOINTMENTS WITH:
-- HRH CROWN PRINCE FAHD
-- MINISTER OF PLANNING HISHAM NAZER; AND
--MINISTER OF INFORMATION ABDO YAMANI.
ON BEHALF OF WORLD SHOWCASE, A PLANNED PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION TO BE LOCATED IN CONJUNCTION WITH DISNEY WORLD IN FLORIDA. WORLD SHOWCASE ITSELF APPARENTLY WILL BE THE FIRST SATELLITE CITY OF A DISNEY PLANNING CONCEPT -- EXPERIMENTAL PROTOTYPE COMMUNITY OF TOMORROW - EPCOT.

2. C. LANGHORNE WASHBURN PHONED AND TELEXED EMBASSY/JIDDA
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REPEATEDLY FOR INFO CONCERNING HIS APPOINTMENTS. HE WAS

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TOLD WE WOULD ASSIST WHERE WE COULD BUT WE DID NOT MAKE
BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS WITH ROYAL FAMILY. NONE OF THE
THINGS PROMISED BY WASHBURN -- ADVANCE MAN, HOTEL RESERVA-
TIONS, RECEPTION -- MATERIALIZED. HE SAID HIS "AGENT,"
ONE PRINCE SUDAIRI, WOULD BE HANDLING DETAILS OF VISIT.
SUDAIRI MADE NO ARRANGEMENTS OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE.
WHEN WASHBURN CALLED ECONCOUNSELOR AND LIAISON OFFICE NIGHT
BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM RIYADH, SAYING HE HAD SEEN NO ONE,
IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT HE GO BACK TO HIS "AGENT" OR CONTACT
MAN -- THAT SAG IN ANY EVENT WAS TIED UP WITH CLEMENTS'
VISIT, MINI-MAXI SUMMITS AND OTHER BUSINESS, MAKING IT
DOUBTFUL THAT ANY OFFICIALS OF CATEGORY WHO MIGHT BE IN-
TERESTED IN PAVILION AT WORLD SHOWCASE COULD SEE HIM.

3. COMMENT: CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT (STATE 233494, 250788)
WAS EXPRESSED FOR WASHBURN AND PARTY. OUR IMPRESSION
IS THAT GROUP DID NOT LIVE UP TO ADVANCE BILLING.
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